

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 IO-11

PC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 OMB-01 /065 W

----- 090634

O R 111400Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8263

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L COTONOU 0451

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, DM, US

SUBJ: FUTURE OF US-BENIN RELATIONS: SUMMARY OF STATUS OF  
OUTSTANDING ISSUES

REF STATE 57761 (NOTAL),

1. THE FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF THE CURRENT STATUS OF  
OUTSTANDING BILATERAL PROBLEMS REQUESTED PARA 5 REFTEL.

2. CHANCERY: ON FEB 17 EMBASSY SENT FORNMINISTRY A DIP NOTE  
INCORPORATING US POSITION (STATE 35068) ON MOVING FROM PRESENT  
CHANCERY AND OUTLINING GPRB OBLIGATIONS UNDER VIENNA CONVEN-  
TION TO FIND US SUITABLE ALTERNATIVE QUARTERS AND PAY RELOCATION  
EXPENSES. GPRB'S FORMAL RESPONSE BY NOTE FEB 25 REJECTED OUR IN-  
TERPRETATION OF VIENNA CONVENTION, REFUSED TO BE RESPONSIBLE  
FOR ANY OF THE COSTS INVOLVED IN THE MOVE, BUT AGREED TO  
ASSIST IN FINDING A NEW LOCATION. AS WE POINT OUT IN COTONOU  
358 WE HAVE REFRAINED FROM FORMALLY PURSUING THE QUESTION  
WITH GPRB UNTIL LARGER ISSUE OF THE FUTURE OF US MISSION  
IN BENIN IS RESOLVED. IT APPEARS TO US THAT GPRB WILL REMAIN  
FIRM ON REQUIREMENT THAT WE MOVE AND REFUVUAL TO PAY EX-  
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PENSE.

3. AT MARCH 8 MEETING WITH CHARGE AND FORNMIN DIRGEN ADJIN (COTONOU 429), SUBJECT OF CHANCERY CAME UP. BOTH PARTIES REITERATED THEIR GOVT'S POSITIONS RE INTERPRETATION OF OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE VIENNA CONVENTION. ADJIN MADE IT ABSOLUTELY CLEAR THAT PRIME MOTIVATION FOR EVICTION WAS PROXIMITY OF CHANCERY TO CAMP GUEZP. THE GPRB HAS DECIDED THAT OUR PRESENCE PRESENTS A DANGER TO THE CAMP'S SECURITY AND WE MUST GO (SUDDENLY AFTER 15 YEARS).

4. IN ORDER FOR THE EMBASSY TO PRESS THE CHANCERY QUESTION, WE NEED ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE FROM THE DEPT. IS THE USG WILLING TO ACCEDE TO THE GPRB'S ARBITRARY DECISION? WE APPEAR STALEMATED ON THE QUESTION OF INTERPRETATION OF THE VIENNA CONVENTION. IT WOULD BE VERY USEFUL IF THE DEPT COULD PROVIDE PRECEDENTS FOR PAYMENT OF MOVING EXPENSES BY HOST GOVTS BASED ON INTERPRETATION OF THE CONVENTION, PARTICULARLY ANY INVOLVING AFRICAN, OTHER THIRD WORLD OR COMMUNIST STATES. (IT WOULD PROBABLY BE USELESS TO CITE CASES INVOLVING WESTERN EUROPEAN ALLIES.) WHAT SHOULD BE OUR POSITION IF GPRB REMAINS ADAMANT RE PAYING? WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD NOT APPROACH THE GPRB ON FINDING US A NEW LOCATION UNTIL THE QUESTION OF WHO PAYS IS RESOLVED. IF OTHER SUITABLE RENTAL PROPERTY IS NOT AVAILABLE, WHAT IS THE DEPT'S POSITION ON BUILDING HERE OR HAVING SOMEONE BUILD FOR US? (NOTE: IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY UNLIKELY WE COULD FIND A WEALTHY BENINESE WILLING TO INVEST ANY MONEY IN THIS COUNTRY.)

5. AMB'S RESIDENCE: ON FEB 13 EMBASSY FORWARDED TO FORNMIN OUR NOTE INCORPORATING TEXT PROVIDED DEPT IN COTONOU 203. TO DATE WE HAVE HAD NO REPLY TO OUR NOTE NOR HAS ANYONE IN THE FORNMINISTRY RAISED THE QUESTION WITH US. (N.B. THE CHANCERY OF THE FED REPUBLIC OF GERMANY WAS ALSO CONFISCATED. SINCE EXPRESSING A WILLINGNESS TO SIGN A LEASE WITH THE GPRB, THAT EMBASSY HAS NOT BEEN CONTACTED EITHER.) WE HAVE ADOPTED THE POSITION THAT OUR RENT IS PAID UNTIL AUG 1 AND WE HAVE A RIGHT TO REMAIN IN THE RESIDENCE AT LEAST UNTIL THEN. WE DO NOT INTEND TO INITIATE ANY DISCUSSIONS WITH THE GPRB RE THE RESIDENCE. ANY INITIATIVE MUST BE THEIRS.

6. COMPENSATION: IN JAN THE MIN OF FINANCE WROTE TEXACO AND CONFIDENTIAL

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MOBILE ASKING THEM TO PROPOSE DATES AFTER FEB 20 TO BEGIN TALKS ON COMPENSATION. WHEN MOBIL REP CAME TO COTONOU IN MID FEB AND WHEN TEXACO REP CABLED A SUGGESTED DATE, BOTH WERE TOLD IT WOULD HAVE TO BE POSTPONED UNTIL AFTER MARCH 15 (BECAUSE ALL BENINESE NEGOTIATORS WERE ENROLLED IN MONTH-LONG IDEOLOGICAL TRAINING COURSE). TO BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE NO NEW DATE HAS YET BEEN SET. EMBASSY HAS EXPRESSED TO FORNMINISTRY OUR DISAPPOINTMENT IN THIS FURTHER DELAY WHICH WE IN-

DICATED CANNOT BE CONSIDERED A GOOD SIGN.

7. TREATMENT OF AMB ENGLE: THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN THE  
SITUATION SINCE COTONOU 429 SENT TWO DAYS AGO. WE SUB-  
SEQUENTLY LEARNED THAT FORNMIN ALLADAYE HAS GONE TO NIAMEY  
AND IS NOT DUE BACK BEFORE MONDAY, MARCH 15. THIS MAKES IT A  
CERTAINTY THAT ASSURANCES ON THE FUTURE TREATMENT OF AMERICAN  
DIPLOMATIS WILL NOT BE FORTHCOMING BEFORE OUR DEADLINE, IF  
AT ALL.  
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